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Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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In the Matter of)
)
ALCATEL NETWORK SYSTEMS, INC.)
Petition to Amend Parts 2, 21, 25 and 94)
of the Commission's Rules to Accommodate)
Common Carrier and Private-Op Fixed)
Microwave Systems in Bands Above 3 GHz)

RM 8004

REPLY COMMENTS

GTE Service Corporation, on behalf of its affiliated domestic telephone, satellite, and cellular companies ("GTE"), hereby submits its Reply Comments on the Petition for Rulemaking ("Petition") filed by Alcatel Network Systems, Inc. ("ANS") that is captioned above.

In these Reply Comments, GTE responds to the Comments filed by Harris Corporation-Farion Division, which in GTE's view have taken the ANS proposal regarding future 4/6 GHz band ("C-Band") allocations a step further by proposing a plan even more harmful to the fixed-satellite service ("FSS") industry in order to accommodate 2 GHz users in the 4 GHz band.¹ Specifically, Harris goes beyond ANS's proposal to reallocate 80 MHz of C-Band spectrum from a primary to a secondary allocation for the FSS, and suggests that all 4 GHz FSS users be migrated to the 12/14 GHz band ("Ku-Band").² GTE opposed ANS's proposal in its Comments to this Petition,

¹ See Comments of Harris Corporation - Farion Division, In the Matter of Amendment of Parts 2, 21, 25 and 94 of the Commission's Rules to Accommodate Common Carrier and Private Op-Fixed Microwave Systems in Bands Above 3 GHz, RM-8004, filed July 2, 1992.

² Id. at 7.

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and herein incorporates its Comments by reference, as they are also applicable to the Harris proposal.³

GTE strongly opposes the Harris plan as a totally unacceptable, injurious proposal that does not balance the interests of incumbent C-Band users vis-a-vis the needs of 2 GHz users. Rather, this proposal would essentially extinguish thriving C-Band satellite services based on the inaccurate presumption that all C-Band FSS services are declining or can be accommodated at Ku-Band. As several Commenters noted, the 4/6 GHz band is a fairly congested band that is heavily used by FSS licensees for traditional as well as for developing services.⁴ Moreover, there are replacement satellites authorized for launch which are based on a solid user demand for C-Band satellite services well into the future. Even Harris acknowledges the widespread use of C-Band TV Receive Only ("TVRO") satellite dishes -- especially in suburban and rural areas.

In addition to obvious demand factors, C-Band spectrum has unique characteristics that favor its use for certain FSS services (e.g., no rain fade attenuation as may occur in the 12/14 GHz band). Thus, Harris's proposal to simply migrate all 4/6 GHz FSS services to the Ku-Band is not technically sound and should be summarily dismissed.

³ See Comments of GTE Service Corporation, In the Matter of ALCATEL NETWORK SYSTEMS, INC. Petition to Amend Parts 2, 21, 25, and 94 of the Commission's Rules to Accommodate Common Carrier and Private Op-Fixed Microwave Systems in Bands Above 3 GHz, RM-8004, filed July 2, 1992.

⁴ See Statement of Home Box Office, In the Matter of Amendment of Parts 2, 21, 25 and 94 of the Commission's Rules to Accommodate Common Carrier and Private Op-Fixed Microwave in Bands Above 3 GHz, RM-8004, filed July 2, 1992 at pp. 9-11; see also, Opposition of GE Americom Communications, Inc., In the Matter of Proposed Amendment of Parts 2, 21, 25 and 94 of the Commission's Rules to Accommodate Common Carrier and Private Operational-Fixed Systems in Bands Above 3 GHz, RM-8004, filed July 2, 1992 at p.2; see also, Statement in Opposition of Hughes Communications Galaxy Inc., In Re: Amendment of Parts 2, 21, 25 and 94 of the Commission's Rules to Accommodate Common Carrier and Private Op-Fixed Microwave Systems in Bands Above 3 GHz, RM-8004, filed July 2, 1992, at p. 5. In its Comments, COMSEARCH noted that over 40,000 frequencies in the 4 GHz Common Carrier Band have been licensed, applied for, or proposed. (COMSEARCH, footnote 1) This is significantly higher than the 6 GHz and 11 GHz Common Carrier Bands. (Id.)

Finally, as MCI noted in its Comments, the ANS proposal is not a "win-win" situation for incumbent C-Band users as well as for 2 GHz users.⁵ MCI stated that the satellite receive-only industry would lose 80 MHz of spectrum, and common carriers (which include the satellite carriers) would suffer a loss in frequency availability. GTE submits that the Harris proposal is a "no-win" situation for FSS licensees and users of FSS C-Band services, and it should be dismissed without further discussion or consideration.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, GTE urges the Commission to reject the Harris proposal to require FSS licensees and users to entirely vacate the 4/6 GHz band in order to accommodate 2 GHz users.

Respectfully submitted,

GTE Service Corporation
on behalf of its affiliated domestic
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companies

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July 16, 1992

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⁵ See Comments of MCI, In the Matter of Amendment of Parts 2, 21, 25 and 94 of the Commission's Rules to Accommodate Common Carrier and Private Op-Fixed Microwave Systems in Bands Above 3 GHz, RM-8004, filed July 2, 1992, at p. 6.

Certificate of Service

I, Jennifer R. McCain, hereby certify that copies of the foregoing "Reply Comments of GTE Service Corporation" have been mailed by first class United States mail, postage prepaid, on the 17th day of July, 1992 to the parties on the attached list:


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